

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An objective lens for converging light onto an information recording medium, comprising:

5 a refracting interface for converging an incident light into a convergent light; and

a refractive index varying member disposed between the refracting interface and the information recording medium, and having a refractive index that is varied according to an externally applied voltage.

10 2. The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plate shape.

3. The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plane of incidence perpendicular to an optical axis.

15 4. The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein a single voltage is applied to the refractive index varying member.

5. The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member is a liquid crystal.

20 6. The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member is an electro-optical crystal.

7. An optical pickup device comprising:

a light source for emitting a laser beam;

25 an objective lens for converging the laser beam onto an

information recording medium; and

a light receiving portion for receiving the laser beam reflected from the information recording medium,

wherein the objective lens comprises:

5 a refracting interface for converging the laser beam into a convergent light; and

a refractive index varying member disposed between the refracting interface and the information recording medium, and having a refractive index that is varied according to an
10 externally applied voltage.

8. The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plate shape.

9. The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plane of
15 incidence perpendicular to an optical axis.

10. The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein a single voltage is applied to the refractive index varying member.

11. The optical pickup device according to claim 7,
20 wherein the refractive index varying member is a liquid crystal.

12. The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member is an electro-optical crystal.